



Australian Government
Department of Education and Training

real skills for
real careers



FACT SHEET

THE AUSTRALIAN VET SYSTEM

The Australian vocational education and training (VET) system is central to Australia's economic growth and business productivity. It is sophisticated and mature, having evolved over many years, and it is designed to provide people with the work-ready skills and qualifications needed to keep Australia's industry sectors productive and competitive.

QUICK FACTS

- 4.2 million students build and sharpen their skills through the VET system each year – that's one in four working age Australians
- Training is delivered by more than 4,500 registered training organisations (RTOs)
- Students can choose from more than 1,450 qualifications, 1,300 skill sets and 750 courses
- 77.7% of graduates are employed after training
- VET is one of two tertiary education pathways available to students when they finish compulsory schooling in Australia – the other tertiary pathway is higher education.

KEY ELEMENTS

There are five key elements of the Australian VET system.



1. NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The Australian VET system is underpinned by the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), which is the national policy for regulated qualifications in Australia. The AQF combines qualifications from each education sector – schools, VET and higher education – into a single comprehensive framework.

What does this mean?

Qualifications in the Australian VET system are quality assured and nationally recognised.

2. National regulation

The Australian VET system is nationally regulated. Every course and training organisation is regulated by one of the following independent statutory agencies – also known as VET regulators:

- Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)
- Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority (VRQA)
- Training Accreditation Council (TAC) Western Australia.

The VET regulators ensure that registered training organisations are regulated against a national quality framework.

What does this mean?

Clients of the Australian VET system receive nationally consistent, high quality training and assessment, regardless of their location.

3. INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

The Australian VET system is based on a strong government-industry alliance. Federal and state and territory governments provide funding and policy direction, while employers shape the qualifications needed by their industry.

What does this mean?

Students gain real-world skills that are valued by employers and recognised across Australia and beyond.

4. FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

The Australian VET system is flexible. There are multiple pathways through the AQF, and learning programs are tailored to the specific needs of each client. Students can enrol in qualifications, accredited courses, industry-recognised skill sets and units of competency, allowing them to gain the skills they need, when they need them.

What does this mean?

Students receive training that is closely aligned to their learning needs and preferences.

5. QUALITY OUTCOMES

The Australian VET system is competency-based. It is outcomes-focused, and designed to deliver workplace-specific skills and knowledge-based competencies in a wide range of occupations. This ensures the best graduate outcomes for students, because their skills are valued by employers and directly related to employment.

What does this mean?

Students gain work-ready skills that significantly enhance their employability.

SUMMARY

Australia's VET system is diverse. It provides training for students of all ages and backgrounds, and it covers hundreds of occupational choices, from information technology, to avionics, to small business management, nursing, fashion and floristry – just to name a few! Training takes place in classrooms, workplaces and online, and can be either full-time or part-time. It is also a dynamic system, in that it continues to make improvements to meet changing labour market needs, government priorities and industry skills demands.

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KEY BENEFITS

Australia's client-centred and industry-led VET system has a number of key benefits:

- It equips graduates with nationally recognised qualifications
- It provides employers with a skilled workforce
- It enhances employers' productivity and global competitiveness
- It increases labour mobility and participation
- It strengthens communities and helps grow the economy.

KEY WEBSITES

- Australian Government Department of Education and Training
<https://www.education.gov.au/>
- Australian Industry and Skills Committee
<https://www.aisc.net.au/>
- Australian Qualifications Framework
<https://www.aqf.edu.au/>
- Australian Skills Quality Authority
<https://www.asqa.gov.au/>
- My Skills
<https://www.myskills.gov.au/>

RELATED TOPICS

- Australian Industry and Skills Committee
- Australian Qualifications Framework
- Australian Skills Quality Authority
- Competency-Based Training
- Learning Pathways
- Quality Frameworks
- Training Products

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SUCCEED
MY WAY.**

There are many ways to succeed. Do it your way with Vocational Education and Training.





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FAQS

THE AUSTRALIAN VET SYSTEM

WHAT IS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING?

Vocational education and training, or VET for short, is a tertiary education pathway that enables individuals to gain qualifications for employment. It is designed to deliver workplace-specific skills and knowledge-based competencies in a wide range of occupations.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN VET SYSTEM?

There are five key elements of the Australian VET system:

- It is underpinned by the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) – clients receive qualifications that are regulated, quality assured and nationally recognised
- It is nationally regulated – clients receive nationally consistent, high quality training and assessment, regardless of their location

- It is industry-led – employers shape the qualifications needed by their industry, which in turn enhances their productivity and global competitiveness
- It is client centred – flexible pathways and tailored learning allow students to gain the skills they need, when they need them
- It is competency based – outcomes-focused training and assessment enables students to build practical capability through work-integrated learning.

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